Biotechnology Information System is recognised by national and international organizations and has been effectively utilized by the scientific community in the country to access data bases and information in the areas of genetic engineering, immunology, crop biotechnology, molecular biology etc.

(c) The Manpower Development Programmes have supported 25 Universities for M.Sc. and M.Tech. and Post-doctoral courses. 1100 students were admitted for the courses and 600 have completed; 115 short-term mid-career development training courses imparted and 1400 scientists have been trained. There are programmes for schools which include development of computor software biology scholarships and biology school teachers training.

In the State of Maharashtra, manpower development programme has been started in Pune University and I.I.T., Bombay. A course for downstream processing will start in University Department of Chemical Technology in Bombay. Infrastructural facilities created in Maharashtra include National Facility for Animal Tissue and Cell Culture at Pune, a Pilot Plant Facility for Tissue Culture at N.C.L., Pune and Antibiotic Consortium at H.A.L., Pune. Research and development projects have been supported in many academic and research institutions in Maharashtra such as National Environmental Engineering Research Institute at Nagpur is receiving major support for environmental biotechnology.

Manufacturing of light transport Aircrafts

3800. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aeronautical Laboratory has prepared the concept and design of an Indian Light Transport Aircraft;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether this project would be totally indigenous or would have foreign collaboration; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND ~~DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN~~ DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore has prepared a feasibility report and evolved the design specifications for a Light Transport Aircraft. As per these specifications, the proposed aircraft will have a capacity of upto 14 passengers with a maximum take off weight of 5700 Kgs. The aircraft is to be fully pressurized to cruise at altitude upto 10.5 Kms. with speed upto 650 Kmph. It will have a range of 2500 Kms. with capability to take off and land from semi-prepared airstrips using about 600 metres of runway length.

(c) and (d) In order to minimize the time and expenses for development, it is proposed to share the efforts on design, development and type certifications on a fifty-fifty basis with the Myasishchew Design Bureau of Russia and to obtain the engines from Pratt & Whitney of Canada.

Screening of a video film

3801. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a 28-minute video film titled "Killing Fields" was produced on a grant given by DST;

(b) whether Government are also aware that it was scheduled for screening

twice during 1991 but was stopped at the last minute;

(c) whether Government are aware that this video was conceived by a former Senior Government Scientist of Agriculture Research Service and Consultant at Voluntary Health Association of India and was intended as an educational tool for consumers;

(d) whether Government are aware that already over 100 prints of this video have been distributed and it has been widely acclaimed; and

(e) if so, whether Government would direct the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to arrange for an early screening of this video (both in English and Hindi) over the national network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employees' Insurance Funds Bill

@3801-A. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided or thinking in terms of framing an Insurance Funds Bill, wherein 20 per cent of the monthly wage bill would be invested in the corpus of the Insurance Fund to be set up by Government;

(b) whether the Fund is proposed to be used by Units to retrench the workers or put them on re-deployment training programme as a consequence of restructuring;

(c) What is the response of the comcerned parties with regard to the retrenchment or re-deployment policies in various public sector undertakings; and

(d) whether it is a fact that nearly half million workers are going to be affected by the retrenchment or re-deployment measures and what is the compensation being offered to them in Public Sector Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) In the Concept Paper on the National Renewal Fund which was discussed at the meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee held on 20th January, 1992, an Insurance Fund for Employees was mentioned as a part of the National Renewal Fund (NRF). However, the National Renewal Fund in its present form does not have such a provision.

(c) and (d) A voluntary retirement scheme is in operation in the Central Public Sector Enterprises. Requisite funds have been placed under various Administrative Ministries for the year 1992-93 to provide for payment to about 52,000 employees for availing of benefits under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Units.

@Previously Unstarred Question 3134, transferred from 14th December, 1992.